

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 for use in conjunction with an embroidery machine for
3 embroidering and monogramming a cap, comprising:

4 a substantially flat, planar frame having an upper surface
5 and a lower surface, a front and a rear, an inner perimeter
6 defining an opening adapted for receiving a cap to be
7 embroidered, an outer perimeter adapted for being secured to a
8 containment hoop of the embroidery machine, and a centered rear
9 alignment groove defined in the upper surface at the rear of the
10 frame; and

11 a retaining plate having an upper and lower surface, said
12 retaining plate removably clamped to the frame;

13 whereby a cap secured within the frame by said retaining
14 plate and maintained in proper alignment with the rear alignment
15 groove is positioned within the containment hoop of an
16 embroidery machine in order to present an area to be embroidered
17 to an embroidery machine.

1 2. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, further comprising alignment indicia
3 disposed on the upper surface of the frame at the front for
4 indicating proper alignment of said frame with the containment
5 hoop of the embroidery machine.

1 3. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, further comprising clamping means for
3 releasably securing the cap between said retaining plate and
4 said frame.

1 4. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, further comprising:

3 a pair of threaded posts extend from the upper surface of
4 said frame; and

5 a pair of threaded knobs engaging the threaded posts, said
6 retaining plate having a pair of apertures defined therein,
7 whereby said retainer plate is placed on, the posts and clamped
8 by the threaded knobs.

1 5. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, wherein said frame and said retaining
3 plate are formed of molded plastic.

4 6. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
5 according to claim 1, wherein said frame has a ribbed portion
6 disposed on the upper surface, the ribbed portion sloping inward
7 from the front towards said inner perimeter, the ribbed portion
8 being adapted for frictionally engaging a bill of the cap when
9 the cap is clamped between said retaining plate and said frame.

1 7. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, wherein said inner perimeter has an arcuate
3 sloping contour extending downwards from the upper surface of said
4 frame towards the opening for guiding errant movements of an
5 embroidery needle away from the upper surface of said frame

1 8. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, further comprising a stabilizer adapted
3 for attachment to the lower surface of said frame, the
4 stabilizer having an adhesive layer capable of removably
5 securing the area to be embroidered within said opening.

1 9. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 8, wherein the lower surface of said frame is
3 comprised of a smooth planar surface capable of adhesively
4 receiving said adhesive stabilizer.

1 10. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 1, wherein said retaining plate has a
3 proximate end having two apertures defined therein, a left side
4 and a right side converging in a point at a distal end, said
5 point extending towards the inner perimeter of said frame when
6 said retaining plate is clamped to the frame.

1 11. The head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 according to claim 10, wherein the lower surface of said
3 retaining plate further comprises first and second ledges
4 projecting from opposite ends of the lower surface, said ledges
5 being adapted for cooperatively engaging a bill of the cap, said
6 first ledge being disposed underneath said point and being
7 adapted for biasing the bill against the upper surface of said
8 frame when said retaining plate is clamped to said frame.

1 12. A head apparel embroidery hoop and alignment device
2 for use in conjunction with an embroidery machine for
3 embroidering and monogramming a cap, comprising:

4 a frame having an upper surface and a lower surface, a
5 front and a rear, an inner perimeter defining an opening adapted
6 for receiving the portion of a hat to be embroidered, an outer
7 perimeter adapted to be secured within a containment hoop of the
8 embroidery machine, and a centered rear groove defined in the
9 upper surface at the rear for facilitating proper alignment of
10 the hat within said frame; and

11 a retaining plate having a upper and lower surface, the
12 retaining plate removably clamped to the frame, the retaining
13 plate further comprising a proximate end having two apertures
14 defined therein, a left side and a right side converging in a
15 point at a distal end, the point extending towards the opening
16 of the frame;

17 wherein the lower surface of the retaining plate has first
18 and second ledges, the ledges being adapted for cooperatively
19 engaging a bill of the cap, the first ledge being disposed
20 underneath the point for biasing the bill against the upper
21 surface of the frame when the retaining plate is clamped
22 thereon;

23 whereby a cap clamped between the retaining plate and the
24 frame and maintained in proper alignment with the alignment
25 groove defined in the upper surface of the frame is adapted for
26 aligning within the containment hoop of the embroidery machine
27 in order to present an area to be embroidered to the embroidery
28 machine.